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## **CLAIMS**

## What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

providing a plurality of operating systems on a single information handling device, the plurality of operating systems including an appliance operating system to control the information handling device to operate an appliance, and a general operating system to perform general information handling tasks; executing the appliance operating system to control an appliance, wherein the appliance operating system is independent of the general operating system; and executing the general operating system to control the information handling device to perform general information handling tasks.

- 2. The method as in Claim 1, further including switching between operating systems.
- 3. The method as in Claim 2, wherein switching includes discontinuing the execution of one operating system prior to executing another operating system.
- 4. The method as in Claim 2, wherein switching includes executing two or more of the plurality of operating systems concurrently.
- 5. The method as in Claim 1, wherein:

  executing the appliance operating system includes reading the appliance operating system from a non-volatile memory circuit; and executing the general operating system includes reading the general operating system from a mass storage device.
- 6. The method as in Claim 1, wherein executing includes checking for resource conflicts.

1	7. An information handling system comprising:
2	a data processor;
3	a bios to provide initial processor control;
4	a memory coupled to said processor;
5	a communications interface; and
6	a plurality of operating systems to be executed by said processor, said plurality of
7	operating systems including:
8	a general operating system capable of performing general information handling tasks;
9	and
<b>1</b> 0	an appliance operating system capable of controlling, through said communications
<b>#</b> 1	interface, at least one appliance, wherein said appliance operating system is
172 175 175 175 175 175 175 175 175 175 175	independent of said general operating system.
<b>W</b> 1	8. The system as in Claim 7, wherein said bios is to control which of said
<u> </u>	plurality of operating systems is executed.
u u	9. The system as in Claim 7, wherein: \
<b>Ģ</b> 2	said memory includes random access memory and read-only memory; and
3	said information handling system further includes a mass storage medium.
l	10. The system as in Claim 9, wherein:
2	said general operating system is stored in said mass storage medium; and
3	said appliance operating system is stored in said read-only
4	memory.
1	11. The system as in Claim 7, further including one or more appliances to be coupled to
2	said at least one communications interface.
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- 1 12. The system as in Claim 11, wherein said one or more appliances are to be coupled to said communications interface via a network.
  - 13. The system as in Claim 7, wherein said one or more appliances are media handling systems.
  - 14. The system as in Claim 13, wherein said one or more media handling systems include at least one of an audio device and a visual device.
  - 15. The system as in Claim 7, wherein said communications interface is a wireless interface.
  - 16. The system as in Claim 7, wherein said communications interface is an electrical interface.
  - 17. The system as in Claim 7, wherein a resource conflict check is performed when said operating systems are executed.

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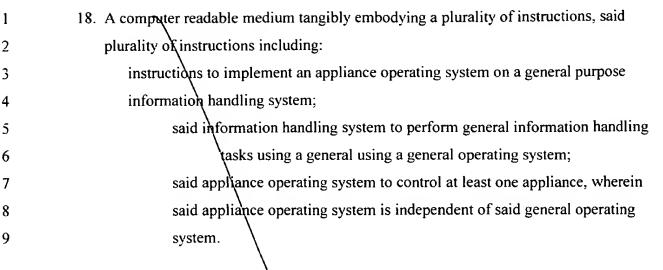
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- 19. The computer readable medium as in Claim 18, wherein said plurality of instructions further includes instructions to control which of said operating systems is executed.
- 20. The computer readable medium as in Claim 18, wherein execution of said general operating system is terminated before switching to said appliance operating system.
- 21. The computer readable medium as in Claim 18, wherein execution of said appliance operating system is terminated before switching to said general operating system.
- 22. The computer readable medium as in Claim 18, wherein said general operating system and said appliance operating system are executed concurrently.
- 23. The computer readable medium as in Claim 18, wherein said at least one appliance is a media handling system.
- 24. The computer readable medium as in Claim 23, wherein said at least one media handling system includes at least one of an audio device and a visual device.
- 25. The computer readable medium as in Claim 18, wherein said plurality of instructions further includes instructions to check for resource conflicts.

